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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



[This department has a two-fold purpose,—to keep nurses in this country in touch with the work of missionary nurses, and to put missionary nurses in touch with each other, for an interchange of ideas, questions, and suggestions. All nurses engaged in mission work, of every creed and country, are invited to contribute to its columns.]

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AMERICA

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY.

I WISH to express my gratitude for the splendid AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING which has been coming to me for some time past.

For somewhat over two years I have been in private and hospital nursing in this city under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board of Seventh Day Adventists.

The medical profession here is not, of course, so advanced as in the homeland, yet is making great progress. As my companion, Miss Meda Kerr, and I have been the only trained nurses, we have had many more calls than we are able to answer, but recently two more have joined us.

We plan soon to open a maternity home with massage parlors in connection, as there is nothing of the kind here, and the doctors are very anxious for such an institution.

As morals are of a very low order, we find abundant room for the spiritual phase of our work—or perhaps I should say “great need” instead of “abundant room,” for here, as in all lands, the majority have no desire for spiritual things. We are glad, however, that a few are longing to hear the gospel of Christ, for, as the Good Book tells us, “The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all nations for a witness and then shall Christ come.”

We feel that the JOURNAL will help us to keep from getting “rusty” in the profession.

FRANCES M. BROCKMAN.

WORK AT VAN, TURKEY-IN-ASIA

By L. McD.

MEDICAL work began in Van with the advent of Dr. G. C. Raynolds in 1872. Of the difficulties which he encountered we shall never know the tithe, for he is too modest to tell anything that attracts attention to himself. He survives, hale and hearty, after forty-two years' service

in Turkey; but not being given to reminiscing we have to get our clues from others and follow them up.

The first years in Van were hard ones for Dr. Raynolds, but with a tenacity of purpose, prominent in all that has concerned him, he stuck to the field through all the persecutions, stonings and massacres. That it was equally hard for his associates of the first years is evident from the fact that none of them stayed by the work after the first term of five years.

We new-comers in the medical work are building on the foundations laid by others, and much of the efficiency of our work is due to the splendid work of Dr. Raynolds. The field has been gradually narrowing by the coming in of other physicians, but at first he was the only physician between Tabriz in Persia, and Aintab and Cæsarea in Turkey; and from Mosul, near the ancient Nineveh, to the Black Sea. He was responsible for the care of all the missionaries in this vast region, and many were the forced marches to succor those in distress.

At present the medical work in Van, with its 65,000 inhabitants, and the vast territory of outlying villages, is under the supervision of Dr. C. D. Ussher.

Our work here is divided into three branches: the hospital, the dispensary, and the city work. Dr. Ussher spends his mornings and evenings in the hospital. The afternoon is divided between the dispensary and out-calls, thus leaving much care of the hospital work to Miss Bond and her assistant head nurse. Besides this, the Moslem work lies before us an open door, and we await funds from America to carry on the work in the land of veiled women where no male physician can go.

How we love to go into their homes and see the pretty faces behind those veils. How we love their native customs, and as we sit on their beautiful Oriental rugs and sip tea or Turkish coffee, our hearts go out to them with a great, tender longing to help them in their isolation and ignorance.

In another issue we will attempt to tell more about the hospital in particular, and the many patients who come to us for healing, both in body and soul.

A NURSE NEEDED

A CALL for a nurse comes from Bidar, India. Any one interested can get information from Dr. Hugh H. Linn, Bidar, Deccan, via Hominabad.